

WRITING THROUGH THE RHETORICAL MODES
SERIES INTRODUCTION

Introduction to College Writing

By Johanna Rodgers

As an introduction to college writing for incoming first-year students, ENG 1101 serves multiple purposes. The course is not only an introduction to the processes, rhetorical situations, structures and dialects of college writing, but also serves to introduce students to the discourse communities and practices of college courses in general. As a course that includes several different types of writing assignments—informal, scaffolded, formal, discipline-specific—across several different writing platforms—web, paper, notebook, mobile—and genres—personal essay, argumentative essay, research essay, blog post, letter, Tweet, proposal, bibliography, editorial, report—the course serves as a practicum for understanding college writing assignments and genres, critical reading practices, textual analysis, critical thinking, and composing and revision processes. While instructors are encouraged to develop their own sequences of assignments for the course, these assignments must relate to the three key learning outcomes for the course:

- 1) understanding reading and writing as processes, and the discrete roles and functions of each step and stage in those processes;
- 2) forming, stating, and supporting an argument with attention to the ethical use of sources;
- 3) developing an awareness of the audience and purpose of each writing situation and its attendant stylistic, structural, and communicational/dialect features.

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